Amer. Malac. Bull. **28**: 191-213 (2010)

Seventy-five years of molluscs: A history of the American Malacological Society on the occasion of its 75th annual meeting

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Abstract: The American Malacological Union (now Society), founded in 1931 as a national organization of collectors, students, professionals, and others interested in the holistic study of molluscs, is now an international society mainly of professionals. Although diminished in size, it continues to attract and fund students, publish a respected peer-reviewed journal, and host annual meetings featuring world-class symposia. In recognition of the society's 75th annual meeting in 2009, I provide a detailed account of the founding, meetings, membership, publications, governance, and societal identity of AMS, gleaned from meeting programs, newsletters, scrapbooks, correspondence, and the memories of Past Presidents and other members.

Anniversaries are times of celebration, remembering, reflection, and summarizing. The 75th annual meeting[1] of the American Malacological Union (AMU; now Society, hereafter AMS) held in Ithaca, New York, in the summer of 2009, was no exception. Today's AMS is fraught with problems: diminishing membership, increasing costs, decreasing return on investments, and fewer and fewer members willing to hold office. Nevertheless, it thrives, by virtue of its respected peer-reviewed journal, continuing student interest, worthwhile projects to benefit students, conservation, and members, and a quorum of loyal members willing to dedicate uncompensated hours to assure its future. Now, as ever, knowing where we came from will help us guide the future.

FOUNDING

The American Malacological Union was founded in 1931 mainly as the brain-child of and through the organizing efforts of Norman W. Lermond (1861-1944), a New Englander described by one biographer[2] as a self-promoter, utopian, idealist, socialist, natural leader and organizer, editor and writer, naturalist, and collector, who founded and operated the Knox Academy of Arts and Sciences Museum and Arboretum (and bird sanctuary) in Thomaston, Maine. He was also a frustrated politician, unsuccessfully running for Congress as the Populist Party candidate in 1898, and for governor of Maine in 1900 as the Socialist Party candidate (Martin 1995, Murray 1999, see additional references on Lermond cited by Coan *et al.* 2009). Lermond's museum included Indian artifacts, rocks and minerals, herbarium specimens, stuffed mammals and birds, bird eggs and nests, pinned insects, and the largest shell collection in the state of Maine (of ca. 100,000 shells)[2]. By the 1930s, the desire for a national organization of malacologists had long been discussed. In 1890, the American Association of Conchologists (AAC) was founded by John C. Campbell of Philadelphia. Its membership roster listed 29 members, including such notables as Henry A. Pilsbry, William H. Dall, Frank C. Baker, and Josiah Keep, but the organization disbanded a few years later, likely due to the declining health and death of Campbell in 1897.

Nearly 40 years later, on January 8, 1931, Lermond discussed the merits of such a national organization with two acquaintances, Dan L. Emery and Charles C. Allen, while wintering in St. Petersburg, Florida.[3] Soon thereafter, he (or Emery) sent letters to an estimated 200 students and colleagues (including amateurs and professionals, neontologists and paleontologists) who were in any way interested in molluscs or their shells. That letter read:

[1] 2009 was actually the 79th anniversary of the American Malacological Society; no annual meetings were held in 1942-1945.

[2] According to Scott M. Martin, in a presentation at the 2009 AMS meeting in Ithaca, New York. Lermond's shell collection was dispersed to Colby College in Waterville, Maine, then from there to the Museum of Comparative Zoology (Harvard University) and the Delaware Museum of Natural History.

[3] This account is from Lermond's handwritten report of the first meeting, in his capacity as Provisional Secretary, preserved in the 1931-1951 scrapbook in the AMS Archives. William J. Clench of Harvard University remembered it differently, recalling that the idea for AMU was conceived over a bowl of chop suey shared between him and his good friend Lermond in Yung Lee's Restaurant off of Harvard Square (*Annual Reports* for 1952 and 1981; Teskey 1981); this was followed by the meeting between Allen, Emery, and Leonard in St. Petersburg.

St. Petersburg, Fla., January 21, 1931
To North American Conchologists
Greeting:

A small group of Conchologists (Active Shell Collectors), here in the East, have been talking amongst themselves, for several years past, about the desirability of and need for an Association of American Conchologists, organized on a similar plan to that of the A. O. U. [American Ornithologists Union].

We have decided that the time has arrived for action, for organization:- First, by enrolling a goodly number of "Foundation" or "Charter" members; Second, by calling a meeting, in the near future, to perfect organization.

In response to the urgent request of the others, I have consented to serve as Provisional Secretary until such time as an election of officers can be held. When sending in for enrollment, we will ask each to contribute 25 cents towards the initial expense for postage, stationery, typewriting and printing.

Having waited a sufficient time for all the two to three hundred shell collectors and conchologists of the U. S., Canada, Cuba and Canal Zone, who are interested, to reply, a printed list of members, with their Post Office Addresses, what they collect and what they wish to exchange, will be mailed to each. With this list will also go a call for election of officers. The whole territory will be divided into some eight sections, and a vice president elected for each.

Annual meetings should be held in rotation in each section, the first, quite likely, in Philadelphia (the Pioneer Center of American Conchology), say May 1st to 3rd, inclusive; at which time and place the organization will be completed by the adoption of a Constitution and By-laws. *The Nautilus*, of course will be the Association's "Official Organ", for reports, etc. Two Veteran Conchologists of the U. S. – Chas. T. Simpson and L. S. Frierson – have already sent in their names for enrollment. Mr. Simpson writes: "I heartily welcome anything that will help to simplify the awful muddle of our biological nomenclature. I am as glad as you are that the Bolton rubbish is to be discarded."[4]

Trusting to hear from one and all, I remain,
Sincerely and Conchologically yours,
Norman W. Lermond, Acting Secretary of A. A. C.

It is interesting to note the emphasis in this letter on collecting and exchanging specimens (now largely the aegis of our sister organization, the Conchologists of America), and on an apparent crisis in nomenclatural problems that needed addressing. Two additional letters calling for Charter Members followed a month later (note that letter-mail postage was only two cents in 1931!), each quoting testimonials from respondents who had already joined. There was mention of one disapproving response, but besides that, the reaction was nothing less than glowing. Bohumil Shimek, a botany professor at the State University of Iowa (who also amassed a shell collection of 2.4 million specimens, ultimately transferred to the Smithsonian), was quoted as writing "Hooray! Your circular letter comes like manna to the hungry, or water to the thirst-cursed wanderer on the desert, to one who has never lost his interest in the field." Others were less eloquent, but equally supportive, and many sent in more than the required twenty-five cent fee.

The response was very good – 169 persons were enrolled as Charter Members. In a letter on March 21, 1931, Lermond called for nominations for officers and for a vote on five suggested names: Association of American Conchologists (his original suggestion), American Association of Conchologists (name of the earlier, failed society, to which Lermond did not belong), American Conchological Society, Malacological Society of America, and Conchological Society of America. The last name garnered the most votes and appeared on the March 1931 listing of Charter Members (Abbott 1956).

The first meeting was set for April 30 to May 2, 1931, at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, to be hosted by ANSP's Henry Pilsbry. Paul Bartsch, curator at the United States National Museum (now National Museum of Natural History), shared the enthusiasm for the new society, but in a letter to Pilsbry dated just before the meeting (23 April 1931) explained part of his fervor:

> "My dear Pilsbry ... as to the meeting: I thoroughly agree with you in everything that you say. I think it is a good thing to have an organization of this kind. It sort of serves to re-awaken an interest in our pets. In these days of the microtomist we must do all we can to keep the pendulum from casting us off altogether in its extreme swing. While I understand the importance of knowing all about the cross-section of an elephant's hair, I can't help but believe that we should not altogether lose an interest in the elephant as a whole. And the work that you and a handful of us have been doing now for a lifetime has been to continue the interest in the entire animal. And this group which is to meet at your place will do a lot to

[4] "Bolton" here is a misspelling for Bolten, more properly cited as Röding (1798). The work was in fact not discarded as Lermond apparently hoped. William Healy Dall (USNM) had earlier recognized it as the original source of numerous taxonomic names and published an index in 1915, and the work was ultimately placed on the Official List of Titles of Works in Zoology by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. A photographic facsimile of *Museum Boltenianum* was reprinted by AMU in 1986.

> retain that interest and to again eventually give systematic zoology that basic status which it deserves. However, a group of well meaning enthusiasts, inexperienced in the real basic side of the work, can do a lot of harm, and this is where I agree with you fully that we must quietly and diplomatically serve as a steering combination that will keep the ship on an even keel while its passengers are enjoying the picnic."

We detect in these words, even in those early days, hints at tensions that we still occasionally face today in meeting venues, *e.g.*, between whole-organism biologists and micro-analysts (including today's molecular biologists), and between those who work and those who merely attend (the "well meaning enthusiast ... [at] the picnic").

By meeting time, membership had swelled to 191. Twenty-nine members from 12 states attended that first meeting, at which a constitution was drafted and adopted. That very brief, eight-paragraph Constitution set the name, officers, and goals of the society, limited membership to the Americas and Hawaii, set annual dues at $1.00, and named the existing publication *The Nautilus* as the society's official serial.[5] Interestingly, and without explanation that I can find, the name American Malacological Union was adopted at that meeting although it had not even appeared among the choices that Lermond had circulated earlier. It is also not clear why "Conchological Society of America," which had earned the most votes the previous spring, did not persist.

Although the word "union" in the society's original name might sound odd to modern readers, in 1931, the choice was appropriate because the organization was conceived as a union of professionals, amateurs, and shell clubs; one of Lermond's socialist organizations, the Brotherhood of the Cooperative Commonwealth (with which he co-founded the utopian community of Equality in Washington State in 1898), used the term "union" in this way. It was also the epithet of other prominent societies of the time, *e.g.*, the American Ornithologists Union, with which Lermond had drawn comparison in his initial letter. Yet Lermond originally proposed "Association," not "Union," so the origin of American Malacological Union remains unresolved. Murray (1999) wrote that William Clench attributed the name to Henry Pilsbry, saying that "whatever Pilsbry wanted, Pilsbry got," in respect for the latter's eminence during this era of American malacology. Regardless of its origin, the word "union" later gradually evolved to refer especially to trade and labor groups, presenting problems in recent years (unforeseen by the founders) for AMS Treasurers in establishing banking arrangements and for AMS Presidents seeking funding for annual meetings and various other functions. According to Murray (1999), there were at least five attempts to change the name from "Union" to "Society," the first appearing in the meeting minutes of 1952. Each time it was defeated largely in deference to tradition. The name change was strongly supported by respondents to a society-wide questionnaire in 1997, went through the lengthy procedure for a constitutional change, and was finally made effective in 1998, bringing the American Malacological Society more in line with comparable groups and better expressing its focus, goals, and activities.

The stated purpose of the society according to the 1931 Constitution was "the promotion of the science of malacology by holding meetings for reading and discussion of papers, and for furthering the interests of students and collectors of shells by facilitating acquaintance and co-operation among the members." Following the call for nominations, Henry Pilsbry was elected as President (by one account, after Lermond declined). Lermond was chosen as Secretary-Treasurer, but was inactive, and his title was reduced to Corresponding Secretary somewhat later. Mrs. Harold R. (Imogene C.) Robertson[6] of the Buffalo Museum of Science was made Financial Secretary. Mrs. Robertson, either by design or default, wrote a detailed account of the meeting. She effectively served in this capacity, that is, informally as Secretary-Treasurer, with Lermond still officially as Corresponding Secretary, until after Lermond's death in 1944 and the War Years of 1944-1946. Although the call for nominations also selected eight Vice Presidents representing regional sections of the country[7], this system was not activated (because the sections apparently never organized) and Paul Bartsch was elected the sole Vice President at the second meeting. Four Council Members (which we now call Councilors-at-Large)

[5] The account of the first meeting, a list of its Charter Members, and the text of the first Constitution were published in *The Nautilus*, **45:** 1-5, July 1931.

[6] In accordance with convention at the time, Imogene Robertson was often listed as Mrs. Harold R. Robertson, so I here combine the two in the interest of clarity and completeness.

[7] Section 1 (Eastern and Atlantic Coast States), Paul Bartsch, United States National Museum; Section 2 (Western and Pacific Coast States), Ida S. Oldroyd, Stanford University; Section 3 (Central States), L. C. Glenn, Vanderbilt University, Nashville; Section 4 (Gulf States), T. H. Aldrich, Alabama Museum of Natural History, Birmingham; Section 5 (Canada), F. R. Latchford, Toronto, and Aurele La Rocque, National Museum of Canada, Ottawa; Section 6 (Cuba and the West Indies), Carlos de la Torre, Universidad de la Habana; Section 7 (Canal Zone, Central America, and Mexico), James Zetek, Institute for Research in Tropical America, Balboa, Canal Zone; Section 8 (Hawaiian Islands and the Philippines), D. Thaanum, Honolulu. Members were listed within these sections in Lermond's first membership list in March 1931.

Figure 1. Officers and council members of the newly formed American Malacological Union at the second annual meeting in Washington, D. C., in May 1932. Left to right: Councilor William J. Clench, Councilor Junius B. Henderson, Councilor Ida S. Oldroyd, Vice President Paul Bartsch, President Henry A. Pilsbry, Secretary-Treasurer Norman Lermond, Financial Secretary Imogene C. Robertson, and Councilor Calvin Goodrich.

were also chosen in 1932: William J. Clench, Harvard University; Junius B. Henderson, University of Colorado; Ida S. Oldroyd, Stanford University; and Calvin Goodrich, University of Michigan (Fig. 1).

The very first paper presented at the first AMU meeting was on South American unionoids: "*Ruganodontites*, a new subgenus of *Anodontites*," by William B. Marshall, Assistant Curator in the Division of Mollusks at the USNM. Ten additional papers followed at that first meeting. In her annual report, Imogene Robertson wrote an extensive summary of each presentation (there being no formal abstracts) and of the discussion following each paper; this became the standard format for the next 25 years.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

The AMS has traditionally met in the summer every year since its founding (see Appendix 1). The series was broken only once, by the four years of World War II (1941-1945). During this hiatus, by carrying on voluminous correspondence, Secretary Imogene Robertson was able to compile and issue *Annual Reports* for 1943 and 1944-1945, including member and affiliated club news (which carried on for many years in the various iterations of the annual reports and newsletter). In the last *Annual Report* during these "off" years, the death at age 83 of founder Norman Lermond was reported. The 1946 meeting (the twelfth) in Washington, D.C. was recorded as an especially joyous occasion, as old friends and new ones gathered for the first time since the outbreak of World War to exchange news and experiences. Subsequent meetings have taken place throughout the United States, as well as once in Havana, Cuba (1938), three times in Canada (Toronto 1939, Montreal 1960, Ottawa 1967), and once officially in the Bahamas (although actually aboard the cruise ship *Nordic Empress*, out of Miami, in 1993). The Cuban meeting was unique in at least one aspect. President Carlos de la Torre (also President of the Universidad de la Habana, Director of its Museum, Curator of Mollusks, and Cuba's Minister of Education) – by far the highest ranking malacological systematist – arranged to have Fulgencio Batista's government send the *Cuba* (a Cuban Navy vessel) to Key West to transport the delegates to and from Havana, most of the 49 delegates having taken the train from Miami to Key West (A. Kabat, pers. comm., 8 January 2010). Although AMS members are now accustomed to the meeting venue being held at the institution (or at least in the city) of the President, this has actually been a rather recent custom and the minority case throughout our history; only 33% (25 of the 75 annual meetings) have been "local."

Council and members have occasionally discussed alternate meeting schedules. A questionnaire in 1997 posed this question, and there was considerable support for meeting less often, particularly in not meeting every third year when Unitas Malacologica holds its international meeting. This has never been put into effect although our society has met jointly at three of the last four World Congresses of Malacology. The first WCM (Washington, D. C., 1998) was so named principally because UM and AMU (along with Western Society of Malacologists) agreed to meet jointly. The 1997 questionnaire also confirmed that most members supported occasionally meeting jointly with another organization. AMS has met jointly most often with the Western Society of Malacologists. The first joint meeting of AMU and WSM was held at San Diego State University in 1975. Today, WSM and AMS are on friendly terms, and the two have met jointly ten times at western sites (1975, 1979, 1983, 1986, 1989, 1991, 1997, 2000, 2005, 2006), with plans again in 2010 in San Diego. Discussions about meeting jointly with other organizations (*e.g.*, Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, National Shellfisheries Association, Conchologists of America) have not yet met with success.

Organization of the meeting has always been the job of the President[8] although sometimes with the help of a local meeting organizer, particularly when the meeting took place away from the President's home institution. Dolores S. "Dee" Dundee served in this capacity twice in New Orleans, once for John Q. Burch of Los Angeles in 1964, and a second time for Louise Russert-Kraemer of University of Arkansas in 1982. Shell clubs also assisted on local organizing committees, serving as official hosts of the meeting beginning in 1955 (New York Shell Club at Staten Island, New York) through 1986 (Monterey Peninsula Shell Club at Monterey, California). Even after the tradition had passed, local shell clubs continued to sponsor evening or social events at the annual meeting into the 1990s and as late as 2006. Presidents have also invariably needed (and found) many additional hands to assist. Past President William G. Lyons recalled, "There were times at the 1987 Key West meeting when I felt like I was doing more than my share of the work, but at the end I had more than 40 members to thank for their substantial help as registrars, drivers, tour guides, symposia organizers, audio-visual techs, T-shirt artists, etc. Without all of us working together, it would have been a disaster. It seems that it has always been thus, which in great part is why we still have an organization today" (W. G. Lyons, pers. comm., 12 January 2010).

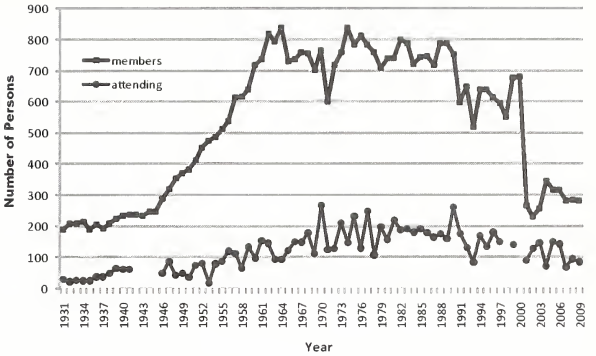


Figure 2. Membership and attendance at annual meetings of the American Malacological Union/Society, 1931-2009. Numbers were taken from annual reports or were physically counted in membership directories, however, it is likely that membership numbers have been calculated in different ways over the years (*e.g.*, whether or not subscribers were included; they were excluded here whenever specified). Attendance not available for 1942-1945 (no meetings during World War II), 1998, and 2000.

Attendance at the annual meetings has varied greatly over the years (Fig. 2). Past Secretary Margaret Teskey (1981) noted that attendance at annual meetings averaged 25% of total membership, but records gathered during the writing of this paper indicate a mean of only 13%. Mean meeting attendance, taken over the 69 meetings for which attendance figures are available, is 127 persons. A low of only 17 attendees was tallied in 1953 at the meeting at University of Kansas, Lawrence, despite 476 members in the organization at that time (or only 3.6% attending). No explanation was put on record for the low attendance, and 13 papers were nevertheless presented (Fig. 3). The maximum attendance recorded so far at a meeting was in 1970 when 268 of 764 members (35.1%) attended the meeting in Key West, Florida. Perhaps there is a lesson here for future presidents: location, location, location! Woods Hole in 1990 was a close second with 261 attending, thanks to a highly successful cephalopod symposium. Three years later, only 83 people attended, but that was the "Bahamas" meeting aboard the *Nordic Empress*, and many otherwise loyal AMUers were unable to justify a business meeting aboard a cruise ship. Attendance immediately rebounded to 170 at the 1994 meeting in Houston. Figure 2 also shows that in years when there is a World Congress of Malacology (Washington, D.C., 1998; Vienna 2001, Perth 2004; and Antwerp 2007), meeting attendance is depressed irrespective of whether AMS meets with the WCM (2001, 2007; meeting attendance unavailable for 1998) or separately (2004) (D. Ó Foighil, pers. comm., 11 January 2010); AMS will meet separately again in San Diego in 2010 in lieu of the WCM in Phuket, Thailand.

Annual meetings were initially informal, three or four days long, with no time limit placed on presentations; early "calls for papers" asked only how long a presenter needed for his or her talk. In 1959, the first concurrent sessions were organized, separating scientific papers from talks on more popular subjects, such as collecting trips. Since 1979, concurrent sessions, organized by topic, have been the norm. The first posters were presented in New Orleans in 1982, organized by Clement Counts III; the Woods Hole meeting in 1990 still holds the record for the most posters (32) at a single meeting (excluding World Congresses of Malacology). Printed programs have existed from the beginnings of AMU, at first listing only titles and presenters in addition to other meeting events. Abstracts of presentations were

[8] In 1996, Council discussed separating the duties of running the society and organizing the meeting into two offices – Immediate Past President for the former and President for the latter. This idea received strong support (the President is usually too busy organizing the meeting to attend to anything else), but was never put into effect.

Figure 3. The 1953 annual meeting of the American Malacological Union at the University of Kansas, Lawrence (top), organized by President A. Byron Leonard of that institution, holds the record for the lowest attendance at any meeting, with only 17 registrants (left to right: first row: Juan Jose Parodiz, Albert R. Mead, R. Tucker Abbott, Jeanne S. Schwengel, A. Byron Leonard, Mrs. Leonard, Fritz Haas, Mrs. Berry; second row: Dorothea Franzen, Margaret C. Teskey, Joseph C. Bequaert, A. Myra Keen, Joseph P. E. Morrison, Elmer G. Berry). The Key West meeting in 1970 (bottom), organized by President Alan Solem of the Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago), attracted the most attendees (excluding World Congresses of Malacology), with 268 registrants.

not included in the meeting program until the Key West meeting in 1970, under President Alan Solem. In recent years, the Program and Abstracts volume of the meeting is a publication available both in print at the meeting, sometimes mailed to non-attending members, and is now often provided online.

Social networking is the new term for it, but AMU/AMS meetings, like any organization, have provided at least as much social as scientific opportunity. Coffee breaks and field trips (either at the end of the meeting, or in the middle as a "break") became the best places to see and be seen, to introduce oneself to the community, to start new collaborations, and to make new friends (Fig. 4). Early meeting reports noted Mrs. Frank R. [Jeanne] Schwengel's annual cocktail party as a regular event (the eleventh was in 1953), looked forward to by many attendees. Apparently, Jeanne's husband, a retired Brigadier General, was a senior executive at Seagram and Sons, once the largest distiller of alcoholic beverages in the world. Every year, "The General" shipped several crates of Seagram's products to the AMU meeting so that his wife could entertain like royalty (A. Kabat, pers. comm., 8 January 2010). Texan members banded together for a similar event beginning in 1972; by 1974, the annual "Texas Party" was already a tradition, and continued through 1980. Philadelphia members threw a similar event at the Corpus Christi, Texas, meeting in 1979.

Other forms of entertainment often included multimedia presentations. At the meeting in Rockland, Maine (1941), Henry Russell (Museum of Comparative Zoology) brought a home movie camera and produced the first-ever (?) film of attendees at a meeting, primarily during social events. At the next meeting (in 1946, following the World War II hiatus), he showed "highlights" from Rockland, and the audience roared when they saw his clip—surreptitiously filmed—of H. Burrington Baker and Miss Bernadine Barker, then unwed, wandering off into the woods, hand-in-hand. (Later in 1941, Miss Barker apparently became Mrs. Baker.) Unfortunately, Russell's films do not survive (A. Kabat, pers. comm., 8 January 2010). In 1957, at her meeting in New Haven, President Ruth Turner arranged to have a party in an outdoor courtyard near the Yale residence hall where they were staying, and as part of the "entertainment"

Figure 4. The social nature of AMS meetings is at least as important as the scientific offerings. Field trips and the annual auction provide informal occasions to spend time with colleagues, new and old. Top left: North McLean (left) shares an interesting find with a colleague, while Paul Bartsch (right) autographs a piece of driftwood riddled with shipworms, on the beach at Plum Point, Maryland, 1932. Top right: Rebecca Rundell and then-President Warren Allmon search for Devonian fossil molluscs near Ithaca, New York, 2009. Bottom left: then-President Paula Mikkelsen and Auctioneer Paul Callomon at the AMS auction during the World Congress of Malacology in Antwerp, Belgium, 2007. Bottom right: Gerhard Haszprunar and Rüdiger Bieler share a malacological moment while waiting for the auction to start, Antwerp, Belgium, 2007.

(*i.e.*, a conversation piece) had a slide projector that continuously ran with various molluscan scenes, broadcast on a large outdoor screen, which was well received (A. Kabat, pers. comm., 8 January 2010). More recently, William E. "Bill" Old Jr. (American Museum of Natural History) was notable in the late 1970s in offering slide shows of previous meetings at the President's Reception held on the first night of the meeting. This past summer, the tradition revived for the 75th anniversary, with a presentation (assembled by the present author) of all group photographs taken at past meetings.

AMU Pacific Division

In 1948, prompted by the expense and difficulties that west coast members experienced in attending east coast meetings, a Pacific Division was organized to convene separate annual meetings in western states. Andrew Sorenson of Pacific Grove, California, is credited as the founder and was made an Honorary Life Member in 1956. The organizational meeting of "AMUP" (also called AMUPD or simply "the PD") was held at Allan Hancock Foundation of the University of California, Los Angeles, 10-11 April 1948. Ruth E. Coats of Tillamook, Oregon, was elected Chairman (that term was used equally for men and women at the time), with Vice Chairman John Q. Burch (Los Angeles), Secretary-Treasurer Leo G. Hertlein (California Academy of Sciences), and Councilors Joshua L. Baily, Jr. (San Diego), S. Stillman Berry (Redlands, California), Wendell O. Gregg (Los Angeles), and A. Myra Keen (Stanford University). Initially, all Past Chairpersons served as Councilors although only four were ever listed officially. There were approximately 40 attendees at that first meeting, and nine papers were presented. Meeting format was more-or-less identical to that of an AMU meeting, including a shell club host, similar number of days, group photograph, presentations, field trips, committees, and occasional symposia. One major difference was shell exhibits, which were regular features of AMUP meetings; a shell auction with Rudolf Stohler as auctioneer was held in 1960 at AMUP specifically to raise funds for cabinets to be used for shell exhibits at annual meetings. Beginning in 1949, the Chairman of AMUP served as Second Vice President on AMU Council. Meeting attendance was good, usually mirroring or exceeding that at the national meeting, and peaking at 110 in 1961 at University of California at Santa Barbara in Goleta, California. The first (and only) joint meeting of AMU and AMUP was held at the Hotel Lafayette in San Diego, California, in 1956. Bylaws were adopted in 1958. AMUP was close to having a "headquarters," holding seven of its 22 annual meetings at Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, California. Past attendees remember this as an ideal meeting site, with the dunes, salt air, rocks, cozy lodge and lodgings, and Stanford University's lab nearby (AMS returned there in 2005, with similar effect). Dues were activated in 1960, set at 50 cents added to AMU dues; membership peaked at 190 in 1964 (the same year as the AMU membership maximum). Still the PD felt in many respects like a poor step-child to the national organization. Friction began in the early 1960s when AMUP wanted to bestow various

members with life membership, but this recognition was denied at the AMU level. Awards of Honor were given in recognition of service to malacology for several years running, but these never carried any official status in the national organization. Past President (and Past Chairman of AMUP) Alan Kohn recalled hearing an unverified rumor that "there was a dispute involving the sum of 50 cents. ... Mr. A.J. Ostheimer, who then lived in Hawaii, was charged 50 cents AMUPD additional dues, and he refused to pay it. This set off the dispute that resulted in the demise of the PD" (A. J. Kohn, pers. comm., 15 January 2010). Regardless of the cause(s), the end was in sight. In 1968, PD members held only a business meeting at Asilomar during the inaugural meeting of the Western Society of Malacologists (WSM). The 1969 meeting was technically a joint meeting with WSM, again at Asilomar. In 1970, a Committee on AMU East-West Organization, with Albert Mead (then University of California) as Chair, presented a report to acknowledge the dissolution of AMUP and to propose reorganizing the national society to hold a Congress every three years supplemented by regional annual meetings (Eastern, Western, Hawaiian, Foreign). The fate of this proposal is unknown, except that it was not accepted. AMUP held no further meetings and was formally dissolved in 1972, effectively replaced by the independent organization WSM. See Appendix 2 for a full list of AMUP meetings and chairmen.

World Congresses of Malacology

In 1998, the AMU met jointly in Washington, D. C., with the international society Unitas Malacologica and the Western Society of Malacologists, forming the first World Congress of Malacology; this was also the first time that Unitas had met outside of Europe, so it was truly a unique event. AMU President Robert Hershler organized the congress, together with UM President Rüdiger Bieler, and attracted ca. 400 attendees (the number of AMU members was not recorded). AMS has convened its annual meetings at subsequent World Congresses in Vienna, Austria (2001), and Antwerp, Belgium (2007). Although such meetings were very well attended, the actual numbers of AMS members in attendance was generally lower than at national meetings. Nevertheless, participation in the triennial WCM increases the stature of the society in the international community, and most recent Presidents have supported such joint ventures. Unlike the first WCM in Washington in 1998, in which AMU was a full joint organizer, sharing in the expenses and profits, subsequent WCM participation has been limited to attendance at a Unitas-hosted congress, with specific AMS-sponsored events (*e.g.*, auction, symposia).

Symposia

The first symposium on record at a meeting was in Rockland, Maine (under President Harald Rehder), in 1941. The seven papers comprising "Methods of Collecting and Preserving Mollusca," organized by Blenn R. Bales, an Ohio physician and amateur, was published in the *AMU Bulletin for 1941*. This was a handy reference source and was so much in demand that in 1955 the symposium papers were incorporated into the first printing of the popular AMU booklet, *How to Collect Shells* (Abbott *et al.* 1955; see Special Publications below). Following this successful beginning, three symposia were held in 1957 (The Distribution of New World Mollusca, organized by Thomas E. Pulley; Some Aspects of Medical Malacology, organized by Edward H. Michelson; Research work in the U.S. Fisheries Laboratory, organized by Victor L. Loosanoff), but symposia did not become annual events until 1968. In 1978, Council specifically mandated symposia "of national prominence" at the next two meetings, to increase membership and visibility of the society. Since then, symposia, special topic sessions, and workshops have become an integral part of each meeting, to highlight key issues in malacology and attract participants who might not otherwise attend. The first plea for donations specifically for symposium support was issued by President Clyde Roper in 1980. The 1981 symposia in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, were partly financed by the shell and book auction and by 50th Anniversary commemorative cards and cancelled envelopes sold by member Richard E. Petit (Fig. 5). In 1982, a Symposium Endowment Fund was established by then-President Louise Russert Kraemer to provide annual funding to presidents and symposium organizers to support travel for symposium speakers and other associated costs of these special sessions. Auction proceeds and individual donations added to the fund, and a goal was set in 1985 of $30,000 (achieved in 1988). AMS-funded symposia are now mandated to be of "world-class" caliber (by a Council motion in 1996, also requiring only one symposium

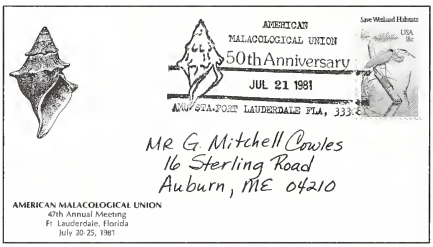


Figure 5. AMU's 50th anniversary souvenir envelope in 1981 featured a commemorative postmark from the meeting venue (Ft. Lauderdale, Florida) as well as the AMU logo *Io fluvialis* drawn by Anthony D'Attilio in 1960. Richard E. Petit produced the covers and sold them for a few dollars each to raise funds for symposia support. The Symposium Endowment Fund was formally established the following year.

per year to receive society funding), and are required to submit proceedings for possible publication in the *American Malacological Bulletin* (*AMB* reserves right of first refusal for all AMS-funded symposia). This action does not preclude other non-funded symposia, workshops, or special sessions designed to bring in additional cadres of participants, with the result that modern meetings often have three or more "special events" to strengthen the attractiveness of attending.

Sales at meetings

Meetings have frequently included space for book dealers and various other businesses offering goods of interest to attendees. Early meetings often included shell sales and "swaps." One of the most controversial measures ever taken by AMS was the motion to prohibit the sale of specimen shells at annual meetings, in the spirit of molluscan conservation. It began in 1976, with a motion approved by Council to forbid commercial sales and the exhibit of shells at meetings. The motion did not pass, but sensitivity to the subject prompted special permission being asked of Council to allow shell sales in the auction in Ft. Lauderdale in 1981 (specifically restricted to marine, non-endangered species). There was another motion to ban shell sales proposed by Council in 1983, and several years of shifting positions followed; at the time, a vote of members present at the Annual Business Meeting was required for ratification, and the membership always reversed Council's decision. One particularly confusing year was 1984, which had an Exhibits Committee to organize vendor tables at the meeting. That committee was charged not to allow shell sales, but shells were allowed in the auction, so the exhibits ban was rescinded. Shell exhibits and/or shells in the auction were present in 1985, 1987-1990, 1992, and 1994. The sale of shells continued to be controversial until another ban was hotly debated by Council in 1994-1995, tabled, and ultimately defeated within Council. After the defeat, a motion to ban shell sales was made and passed at the Annual Business Meeting. Although this vote had no control over Council, it expressed the strong opinion of the membership, and Council passed the ban in 1996: "The American Malacological Union does not allow selling, buying, or trading of shells or shell products at its annual meetings." Another motion to overturn was proposed in 2005, but was defeated. This policy remains in place today.

Annual meetings have usually included a fundraising auction since 1980. The first such event was at AMUP at Asilomar in 1960, to raise funds to buy shell cabinets to be used at meetings. The next on record was in 1966 at the national meeting in North Carolina, to help cover meeting expenses. A shell auction was a special event in 1975 in San Diego during the joint meeting with AMUP. Then in 1976, the first "Literature Auction and Book Bazaar," with Morris "Karl" Jacobson as auctioneer, raised $983.53. When held at joint meetings with Western Society of Malacologists, proceeds were often split fifty-fifty. In 1983, the auction was called the William E. Old Jr. Memorial Auction, in honor of one of our first "regular" auctioneers, Bill Old, who died suddenly on New Year's Eve the previous year. Proceeds of the 1981-1998 auctions went to the Symposium Endowment Fund. In 1999, the decision was made to redirect auction proceeds to the Student Research Endowment Fund, and the auction continues to support student programs today. Still one of the most enjoyable events at the annual meeting, the auction offers a wide variety of books and "shell paraphernalia" (T-shirts, toys, ceramics, quilts, etc.) auctioned by some of most vibrant personalities, most notably Morris "Karl" Jacobson (1966, 1976, 1980), William E. Old Jr. (1980, ??-1982), Richard E. Petit (1983-2003, jointly with Hank Chaney or Carole Hertz during west coast meetings), Chris Garvie (2004), Paul Scott (2004), and Paul Callomon (2004-2009).

Sales of T-shirts bearing the annual meeting logo have also become annual (for more about logos, see Branding and Societal Memory, below). The earliest mention of such a T-shirt that I have been able to locate was for the Los Angeles meeting in 1989, however then-President James H. McLean recalls this being a tradition long before the L.A. meeting (pers. comm., 8 January 2010).

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in AMU grew steadily from 191 at its founding to a peak of 838 in 1964 (Fig. 2), a growth period of just a little over 30 years. The second thirty years (1960-1990) saw membership wavering in the 700-800 member level. However, the last 15 years has shown a nearly consistent decline, and society records indicate concern beginning much earlier. In 1973, Council discussed a perceived drop in younger members joining and continuing their membership (although I could find no mention of any enacted remedy). In 1978, Recording Secretary Connie Boone calculated that AMU was losing members at the rate of approximately 10% per year, prompting measures aimed at increasing membership and meeting attendance, including a mandate for symposia "of national prominence." The curve in Figure 2 indicates that such measures had a positive effect and reversed the decline. Lastly in 1993, Janet Voight, Chair of the Membership Committee, authored an article in *AMU News* about declining membership, citing a 33% drop below 1987 level. Today, the total is approaching founding level again, hovering for the last three years at approximately 280 persons. What happened?

There has been considerable discussion in AMU/AMS Council about attracting and maintaining members, and a combination of issues are clearly involved. Certainly, the rise of Conchologists of America (COA; which boasted a membership of 1,500 members in 1998) for amateurs, as well as

special interest malacological organizations (*e.g.*, Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society, Cephalopod International Advisory Council), have decreased AMS membership in recent years. Other factors no doubt include decreased academic funding for memberships and travel, a generally reduced interest in membership organizations (not restricted to malacology; see Putnam (2000) for an interesting analysis of this social phenomenon), and the ready availability of email, listservers, and other online sources of information. Recent attempts to increase student benefits have resulted in a slight increase in student participation at the latest meetings, which is heartening to all and so important to the future of malacology. Nevertheless, the future remains uncertain.

Amid the curve in Figure 2, three sharp declines (in 1971, 1993, and 2001) warrant further discussion. At least two of these are clearly artifacts of intentional corrections to the membership roster. It is a well acknowledged fact that during some years, officers in charge of membership were lax in removing unpaid members, thus artificially inflating the membership total. Other societies have admitted similar problems, so AMS is certainly not unique in this regard, and many membership organizations intentionally carry unpaid members on their rolls as "prospects" to be regained; so the problem is actually one of improper reporting. The first misleading decline occurred in 1971 when 192 members were dropped because of unpaid dues. Concern was expressed and a flurry of letter writing by outgoing Recording Secretary Marion Hubbard followed. Membership increased by 43 people in 1976, so that activity obviously had a positive effect. A similar correction occurred in 2001, when nearly 200 members who had not renewed their membership were dropped from the roster. No similar mention was made in 1993 reports, but the same correction could conceivably have occurred then as well. The extent of membership over-inflation across the curve in Figure 2 cannot be traced with accuracy, perhaps lending limited usefulness to the presented data, and one wonders what paid membership actually was during the days of 600-800 members. Nevertheless, it is clear that membership now is much less than it used to be, but that the three sudden and drastic dips in the curve were probably not responses to something that AMU/AMS "did," or sudden reversals of interest on the part of our community. Today's officers are taking greater care of the membership database, if only in recognition of the high cost of unwarranted mailings, so we can probably trust at least the most recent totals. That said, the undoubtedly genuine general decline in membership over recent years continues to occupy AMS Council, which seeks new and better ways to attract and keep members.

Special categories

AMU has had special membership categories since 1932. Originally limiting membership to persons living in the Americas, Corresponding Membership was created for those in other countries; there were two Corresponding Members in 1932 (Professor Shintaro Hirase, Zoological Institute of Tokyo, and Dr. Sohtsu G. King, Pekin Laboratory of Natural History, Peiping, China). By the 1960s, AMS had achieved a recognized place among the scientific societies of the world, and included corresponding members from Japan, the Philippines, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Yap, and the Netherlands. By 1981 in its fiftieth year, Germany, France, Oman, New Zealand, South Africa, Brazil, Belgium, Ireland, Taiwan, Thailand, Hong Kong, Austria, and the Arabian Gulf were added to the roster. Other organizations were originally listed as regular members in the annual rosters, but in 1967, 42 Affiliated Shell Clubs were listed separately for the first time. Although Affiliated Membership is still offered (at the same rate as an individual membership), Affiliated Members last appeared as a special category in the AMU/AMS Directory in 1996.

Other special price memberships have long been offered (though exact years are not available) in various categories. AMS currently recognizes Regular Members, Student Members (at reduced fees), Sustaining Members (for those who contribute above regular dues), Affiliated Members (see above), and Life Members (who pay a lump sum and thus avoid all subsequent annual fees; currently 15 to 30 times Regular membership depending upon age).

Honorary Membership was also created in 1932, "for those that have contributed in an outstanding way to American Conchology." Charles Torrey Simpson (USNM, emeritus), Bryant Walker (Detroit, Michigan), and Victor Sterki (Carnegie Museum of Natural History) were the first elected. Dr. Thomas Barbour, Director of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, was elected to honorary membership in 1933. Later, Honorary Membership was awarded in recognition for service to malacology. Honorary Life Membership was first awarded in 1952 to Imogene C. Robertson, in recognition for her 20 years of service as AMU Secretary when she retired from that position. Many others have been so honored through the years; this title (now codified in the Constitution) is now available to a maximum of ten persons at any one time. Honorary Presidency was conferred upon Ida S. Oldroyd (Stanford University, when the meeting was held there) in 1934 and Henry Pilsbry in 1937, but that category seems to have been abandoned in favor of Honorary Life President, reserved for only one person at a time. Those so honored have been Paul Bartsch (1959), S. Stillman Berry (1960-1984), Harald A. Rehder (1985-1996), Ruth D. Turner (1997-2000), and Alan J. Kohn (2008-present). A full list of honorary appointments awarded by the society appears in Appendix 3.

Students

AMS has always strived to support students of malacology as the future of our science, but student benefits were not always available. The first student paper award was initiated by

President William Old at his 1979 meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas. Robert S. Prezant (University of Delaware; Prezant would become President in 1999) won the $100 award for his paper on mantle glands of lyonsiid bivalves. Thereafter, student paper awards were offered annually, usually by virtue of individual donations from members. In the 1980s, donations were solicited to help subsidize student papers in the *Bulletin* when it first became a peer-reviewed journal. The first standing committee for student programs (the Student Paper Award Committee) was established in 1983 and has continued ever since. Today, AMS offers lower membership dues and lower registration and event fees at annual meetings to enrolled and newly graduated students; some meetings (*e.g.*, Woods Hole 1990, Sarasota 1992, Chicago 1996) have also provided reduced or free housing for students. Various presidents have been successful in raising funds to support student travel and attendance at the meetings (notably for Pittsburgh 1999 [where 25% of attendees were students], Vienna 2001, and Antwerp 2007). The two annual AMS student grants honor Past Presidents for their support of student programs: since 2000, the Constance Boone Award for the Best Student Presentation, given for the best student paper or poster presented at the annual meeting, and the Melbourne R. Carriker Student Research Awards in Malacology (created in 1997, so named since 2007).[9] A standing committee now manages student programs and evaluates proposals. Since 1999, proceeds of the annual auction have been added to the Student Research Endowment Fund (originally proposed in 1990, established in 1998 with a goal of $50,000). Since 1999, a student member serves as one of the four Councilors-at-Large, and students often gather separately at annual meetings to discuss issues pertinent to their special status.

Amateurs

Amateur conchologists have played an active and integral role in AMS throughout its existence. Founder Norman Lermond himself was an amateur, as have been many Presidents and other officers. Shell clubs have held Affiliated memberships, and for many years served as co-hosts of annual meetings. When Arthur Clarke held his meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas, in 1968, six Texas shell clubs united to play host in lieu of university auspices. "Shell Club Night" was an annual evening event beginning in 1964, and most years through 1988, with shell exchanges, slide shows of past meetings, and reports by shell club representatives. Shell Club Representatives became official in 1978, when they were allowed a reduced registration fee. I personally remember the pride felt by many (myself included) who attended the meetings in this capacity. Shell club representatives continued at most meetings through 1997 although Shell Club Nights ended a decade before. The 1980 meeting established workshops aimed at amateurs and hobbyists; these continued through 1984. During the last several decades, however, amateur participation has declined, and AMS today is largely a professional organization. The reasons for this are controversial and laden with emotion. Certainly, the growing prominence of the COA, founded in 1971, which perhaps provides more of the type of programming sought by non-professionals, played a strong role in this shift. The professionalization of the annual AMS meeting program, the prominence of contributed papers and symposia using academic methodologies (*e.g.*, electrophoresis, electron microscopy, biochemistry, sequencing), the upgrade to a peer-reviewed publication, and the prohibition of shell sales have also been perceived as limiting (or even excluding) by many amateurs. It is well documented that AMS Council never discussed or sought to eliminate amateurs, and in fact often discussed how to enhance programs to retain such members (Murray 1999). The loss of the participation of shell clubs, which once played such a prominent role in annual meetings, places an increased burden on presidents and local organizing committees. Today, only a small number of amateurs still actively participate in AMS, but all continue to be welcomed as members.

PUBLICATIONS

Annual Reports

From 1931 to 1933, reports of the annual meeting were provided in the molluscan specialty journal *The Nautilus*. The report of the second meeting was colorfully entitled "Mrs. Imogene C. Robertson's Rambling Notes on the Second Annual Meeting of the AMU in Washington DC, May 26-28, 1932." From 1934 to 1970, *Annual Reports of AMU* were issued (but still in the same size and format of *The Nautilus*) that included meeting abstracts, some extended papers, reports on the business meeting, a group photograph (often with each attendee identified, a tradition that continued through

[9] In 1985, two student paper awards honored two past presidents who were recently deceased: the William J. Clench Prize (awarded to Janice Voltzow [Duke University], for "Functional Morphology of the foot of the Lightning Whelk, *Busycon contrarium*"; Janice was President of AMS in 2001) and the Joseph Rosewater Prize (awarded to Silvard Kool [George Washington University] for "Systematic Revision of the Thaidid Genera Based on Anatomy"). In 1987, the student paper award was named the Maude N. Meyer Award for that year only, in recognition of a generous bequest; John B. Wise (Grice Marine Biological Laboratory) was the winner for his presentation "Contributions to the Biology of *Boonea impressa* (Say) (Gastropoda: Pyramidellidae)." The Carriker Award was preceded by the Joseph C. Bequaert Award for Field Studies of Land or Freshwater Mollusks, established in 1982, at $400 annually, but seems to have only lasted through 1983.

1981[10]), and a membership list. The first 26 of these were printed on the Buffalo Museum of Science press, where Imogene Robertson (AMU Secretary) was Curator, and also largely the author of the *Annual Reports*. Authors did not submit their own abstracts of their papers until 1948; prior to that, Mrs. Robertson wrote everything. In the revised Constitution of 1953, the *Annual Reports* series was listed instead of *The Nautilus* as the official publication of the society. The first full financial report appeared in *Annual Reports* in 1961. The 1966 *Annual Reports* included the first extended abstracts, written by the authors. In 1971, the annual publication was enlarged and renamed *Bulletin of the American Malacological Union*, with contributed papers occupying a more substantial fraction of the content. A comprehensive index to the annual reports and bulletins for 1934-1974, compiled by long-time Secretary-Treasurer Margaret C. Teskey (and informally called the "Teskey Index") was published in 1975 and separately distributed (preceded by a shorter version, Anonymous 1966).

American Malacological Bulletin

The *Bulletin* metamorphosed in 1982, becoming a full-fledged, peer-reviewed scientific journal called the *American Malacological Bulletin* (*AMB*), with Robert S. Prezant (then at University of Southern Mississippi) as its first editor. Prezant explained in the first issue, "The persistently high quality research reported in *AMU Bulletins* deserves an accentuated and expanded AMU journal." Five Associate Editors and a Board of Reviewers of 35 persons were listed in the first issue. A Managing Editor, Ronald B. Toll, was added in 1986. Annual issues were published in 1983 and 1984, after which *AMB* became biannual (although some recent years have produced single, technically combined, issues). Volume 1 in July 1983 was somewhat transitional between the old and new, including peer-reviewed "outside" papers plus most of the traditional *Annual Report* contents (minutes of the business meeting, abstracts, and membership list). Page charges supported the new format, and the dues notice included a plea for donations to assist student publication in *AMB*. Three Special Editions have also been published (all fully underwritten): no. 1, *Perspectives in Malacology: a Symposium to Honor Melbourne Carriker* (at the 1985 AMU meeting in Rhode Island, organized by Robert S. Prezant and Clement L. Counts III, and supported by the University of Delaware, 1985); no. 2, *Proceedings of the Second International* Corbicula *Symposium* (held in 1983 in Little Rock, Arkansas, organized by Louise Russert Kraemer and others, and supported by the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Electric Power Research Institute, 1986); and no. 3, *Entrainment of Larval Oysters* (proceedings of a 1985 workshop in Lewes, Delaware, organized by Robert S. Prezant and others, and supported by the Baltimore Army Corps of Engineers and the Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Mississippi, 1986). The report of the annual business meeting, list of Executive Council members, group photograph, membership list, and abstracts of papers presented at the annual meeting were omitted from *AMB* in 1987, after which they became available only in the newsletter or meeting program provided to attendees. An index to the first six volumes and three special editions was published in 1988 (Counts 1988). Symposia presented at annual meetings have made up a substantial part of the papers published in the *AMB* since its inception. *AMB* reserves the right of first refusal for symposia at annual meetings that have been financially supported by AMS. After the original team of Editor Prezant and Managing Editor Toll, the *Bulletin* has been produced by Toll and Paula M. Mikkelsen, Toll and Timothy A. Pearce, Janice Voltzow and Ángel Valdés, and Kenneth M. Brown and Cynthia D. Trowbridge. Details about the annual meetings of AMU/AMS and resulting publications were summarized by Coan and Kabat (2009). In 2009, the *AMB* joined the e-generation by becoming part of BioOne (www.bioone.org), the electronic aggregation of bioscience research journals. A full collation of the *Annual Reports*, *Bulletins*, and *AMB* through 2007 was published by Coan and Kabat (2007).

Membership newsletters

The first *American Malacological Union Newsletter* was produced in September 1968. It consisted of just two pages and is marked "NYSC Notes No. 144" but does not appear to have ever been printed in the *New York Shell Club Notes* or perhaps even distributed widely (Eugene V. Coan, pers. comm., 9 January 2010). It announces plans for the newsletter, has a paragraph on "Why join the American Malacological Union?," an announcement about the 1968 Corpus Christi meeting, results of the last business meeting in terms of elected officers, and a membership application form. The following January, vol. 1, no. 2 appeared as part of the *New York Shell Club Notes* no. 148, with a history of the AMU *Annual Reports* by Morris. K. "Karl" Jacobson (American Museum of Natural History, hence the connection with the New York Shell Club; Jacobson was also the newsletter editor), and "Teskey Testers," amusing anecdotes from the correspondence received by Secretary Margaret C. Teskey. In fall 1970, under Jacobson's editorship, an independent AMU newsletter

[10] There is no record of how attendees in the group photograph were identified in the early years, but in the 1970s and 1980s, I personally recall the method. Immediately after the photograph was taken, clipboards were passed down each row for each person to inscribe their name in order. The last time this occurred was at the 1981 Ft. Lauderdale meeting – over 200 attendees waited for the clipboards, not-so-patiently, on the beach in the sweltering Florida July sun. We never passed a clipboard again!

began what would become a long-term, useful feature of summarizing news from shell clubs, museums, members, and research institutions. The newsletter was issued twice per year and also included book reviews, news of conservation issues, and in spring 1972, a conservation questionnaire. In following years, Jeanne Whiteside, Dorothy E. Beetle, Paula M. Mikkelsen, Raymond E. Neck, M. Bowie Kotrla, Donna D. Turgeon, S. Dawne Hard, Paul Callomon, and Christine Parent have served as Newsletter Editor. In 1984, responsibility for the newsletter was added to the duties of the Corresponding Secretary; it was separated out again when the two offices of secretary plus treasurer were combined in 1989. In 1980 (before email, Facebook, and personal or institutional web pages), the newsletter began focusing on shell club news in the fall issue, and on research reports by professionals and institutions in the spring issue. Member and institutional news dwindled in the 1980s, but affiliate member (shell club) news continued through 1992. In 1987, the newsletter took over disseminating annual reports of the officers, the group photograph, and the general membership list, formerly included in the *AMB* and its predecessors. A third annual issue of *AMU News,* printed on archival-quality paper, was authorized that year to accommodate these additions but continued only through 1990. The annual financial report continues to be printed in *AMB* as a requirement for permanence of public record (R. S. Prezant, pers. comm., 11 January 2010). The membership directory was separated from the newsletter in 1997 and since 2003 has been circulated electronically to membership as an independent document. In 2001, the newsletter "went electronic" and ceased hard-copy distribution except by request. Issues back to 2000 are archived and available for download on the AMS website.

AMS website

In 1997, almost overnight, email became the dominant method of communication among Council members. That same year, the AMU website (now at http://www.malacological.org/index.php) was launched, managed successively by Deborah Wills, Daniel L. Graf, Liath Appleton, and Brian Gollands. The AMS Secretary now routinely emails information and documents to the entire membership. The website has expanded to include a continually increasing range of reports, meeting information, electronic publications, images, and other resources for members, potential members, and students. Perhaps the most widely used electronic publication is the often updated "2,400 Years of Malacology," which provides information on biographical and bibliographical publications on approx. 10,000 malacologists, conchologists, paleontologists, and others in the history of our science (Coan *et al.* 2009). This year, the website will begin to include passworded tools for officers (*e.g.,* an online membership database) to facilitate the operations of the society.

Common Names List

One external publication project was (and continues to be) strongly sanctioned by AMS over the course of many years. The American Fisheries Society's *Common and Scientific Names of Aquatic Invertebrates from the United States and Canada: Mollusks,* otherwise known as the "Common Names List," covers those species occurring on the American continent north of Mexico and/or within 200 miles of its shores (to 200 meters deep). For the sake of completeness, the list also includes land snails and freshwater molluscs. It provides a complete checklist plus an "official" common name for use by conservation legislation and other non-academic projects that are uncomfortable with taxonomic nomenclature. The project began in 1977, when President Carol Stein established a committee "to prepare a list of common names of molluscs of medical importance, commercial importance, of major food supply, and selected molluscs as determined by the committee." David Stansbery took the chair of what would soon be called the Committee on Common Names of Mollusks. By 1981, Stansbery was seeking funds to publish the work. In 1983, Stansbery stepped down and Donna Turgeon took over the chair, and responsibility for the project was transferred from AMU to the Council of Systematic Malacologists. In 1985, Turgeon announced that the list of 4,700 species had been compiled by 100 contributors and reviewers. The work would ultimately be published by the American Fisheries Society as part of a new initiative to document all aquatic invertebrates of the United States. Funds to support the publication were received from Shell Oil Company, and an agreement with AFS awarded AMU a percentage (15%) of the profits after costs were recovered. The first edition was published in 1988 (Turgeon *et al.* 1988), and the second (with 6,270 species and a CD-ROM), which documented additions and changes since the first edition, appeared in 1998 (Turgeon *et al.* 1998). Plans for a third edition are now underway, which will again track changes plus expand by adding state indicators for each species plus Hawaii and all U.S. territories (*e.g.,* Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). AFS has since published additional invertebrate lists (in addition to its fish list, now in its 6th edition, 2004), including Cnidaria and Ctenophora (2nd edition, 2003), and Crustacea (2005, superseding Decapoda in 1989).

Special publications

In 1939, a Publication Committee was established to consider publishing a periodical helpful to beginners. In 1941, the symposium "Methods of Collecting and Preserving Mollusks" was presented at the annual meeting, which ultimately evolved into the needed publication *How to Collect Shells* (later *How to Study and Collect Shells*) that, in the days before the internet, was extremely popular. This booklet was revised three times (La Rocque 1961, Abbott *et al.* 1966, Jacobson 1974, as *How to Study and Collect Shells*). This last title change emphasized

observation, prompted by the Conservation Committee, and was reprinted several more times, and sold for a modest $1.00 per copy for most of that time. Following a workshop at the 1999 meeting in Pittsburgh ("Malacology Curation for Amateurs," organized by Charles Sturm by invitation from then-President Robert S. Prezant), the "how to collect" concept was expanded in an effort to bring amateurs and professionals together (R. S. Prezant, pers. comm., 9 January 2009). The result, after several years of recruiting, writing, and editing, was the more comprehensive revision, *The Mollusks: A Guide to their Study, Collection, and Preservation* (Sturm *et al.* 2006).

A few other additional official AMU publications were produced as fundraisers. *Scientific Contributions Made from 1882 to 1939* was published in 1940, honoring AMU's first president Henry A. Pilsbry on the occasion of the society's tenth anniversary. This was a Pilsbry bibliography, 63 pages long, compiled by H. Burrington Baker (who also did anatomical work for Pilsbry; R. Robertson, pers. comm., 12 January 2010) and published by AMU, listing the 986 titles produced "in first 58 years" of Pilsbry's career. It sold for $1.00 per copy. In the early 1980s, member and shell book dealer Richard E. Petit investigated reprinting out-of-print classic molluscan works and selling them on behalf of AMU. Röding's *Museum Boltenianum* (1798) was produced in 1986 (from a facsimile originally assembled from the British Museum copy by C. Davies Sherborn and E. R. Sykes in 1906) and sold for $20.00 per copy with a 25% discount to members. Despite additional ideas, no further issues were produced. A gift of reprints of Binney and Tryon's *Complete Conchological Writings of C. S. Rafinesque* was also sold by AMU, as were the separates of S. Stillman Berry, Dee Dundee, and Brantley Branson, through the office of Corresponding Secretary. Most recently, Harold Murray (1999) produced a bound manuscript of a June 1979 series of ten interviews with William J. Clench at his home in Dorchester, Massachusetts, in an attempt to capture some of the oral history of malacology (as well as some of its personality – Bill was telling jokes in Chapter 10!). The volume was sold at the 1999 Pittsburg meeting, with the proceeds going to the student research fund (R. S. Prezant, pers. comm., 9-12 January 2009).

GOVERNANCE

AMU created its first Constitution at its first meeting in 1931. Bylaws (which govern the day-to-day operations of the society, such as the amount charged for annual dues, and require less procedure to modify) were created in 1953. The present Constitution and Bylaws have been revised nine times since 1985 (last in June 2008), each time becoming more complex, but at the same time staying accurate and becoming more precise in defining how AMS operates. Another important document for serving officers is the "Motions of Council and Annual Business Meetings," which lists, by category, all of the motions "on the books" since 1982; technically all such motions are binding unless rescinded by a subsequent motion.

AMU began to investigate the process of incorporation as a non-profit organization in 1961, with R. Tucker Abbott, Joseph P. E. Morrison, and Harald Rehder leading the committee. Three years later, in early 1964, AMU was incorporated in the State of California (because that is where the then-Treasurer, Jean Cate, resided). The society voted to maintain the incorporation in California in 1974, and in 1999, "Restated Articles of Incorporation" were filed to reflect the name change to American Malacological Society and to ensure compliance with current California Non-Profit Corporations law (E. V. Coan, pers. comm., 8 January 2010).

AMS is governed by a Council. The first meeting created only a President, Secretary, and Treasurer (then called Financial Secretary). A Vice President (who would assume the Presidency the following year) and four Councilors were added in 1932. A Publications Editor was added in 1954, with George M. Moore (Durham, New Hampshire) elected to fill it, succeeded in 1962 by Morris K. "Karl" Jacobson (Rockaway Beach, New York), then by Arthur Clarke (National Museum of Canada) in 1972. President Elect was added in 1971, allowing two full years for a presumptive president to learn the ropes before assuming office. Except for the offices of Presidential succession, there were no term limits at first, with each officer simply continuing as long as he or she consented to serve. Term limits were put in place in the 1970s: two years for Councilors-at-Large, three years for Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer, and five years for Publications Editor. Secretary, Treasurer, and Publications Editor now each serve five years, and Councilors hold staggered two-year terms, with two new Councilors elected each year.

The offices of Secretary and Treasurer have existed in numerous combinations. Although Norman Lermond held the office of Corresponding Secretary during the early years of the society, Imogene Robertson essentially performed his duties plus those of her own office of Financial Secretary (= Treasurer). At the 1946 meeting, the office of Treasurer was formally created, with Harold Robertson elected (he had informally and jointly occupied the effective office of Secretary-Treasurer with his wife Imogene since 1932). The two offices were recombined after the death of Harold Robertson and retirement of Imogene in 1951. Margaret Teskey occupied the office of Secretary-Treasurer until 1961, then was Secretary after a separate office of Treasurer was again created; she served in this capacity until 1969. In 1970-1971, the office of Secretary was further split into Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary, prompted by the workload. By 1972, the Corresponding Secretary was receiving "about a letter a day" and answered most of them with one

of several form letters or informational lists. Constance Boone of Houston, Texas, served as Recording Secretary for nearly the entire span of its existence, from 1974 until 1989 when the three offices of Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer were once more combined into one office, this time in an effort to increase efficiency.[11] That attempt failed, again because of workload, and the offices were again separated into Secretary and Treasurer in 1994, as they remain today.

Past Presidents were first added to Council in 1938, and from then on, all Past Presidents served on Council, with the result that by the 1970s, at least 25 Past Presidents could conceivably attend and vote at annual Council meetings. The number of Past Presidents actively serving on Council was reduced in 1987 (by a Bylaws amendment proposed in 1985, after a long series of debates) to the immediate three Past Presidents, two who had served as President 4-10 years earlier, plus two who had served as President 11 or more years earlier. This complement was further reduced in 2008 to only one from each of those categories, largely because of difficulties in finding Past Presidents willing to serve. Regrettably, the restriction of Past Presidents on Council disheartened many, who have seldom been seen at meetings after a few years past their own. The absence of the "organizational memory" inherent in our most respected and senior members is acutely felt by many members and by the officers of the AMS Council.

AMS Council now consists of a President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, *AMB* Editor, three Past Presidents, and four Councilors-at-Large, one of which is a student member. Non-voting members of Council include the webmaster, the *AMB* Managing Editor, and the Newsletter Editor. The Council confers throughout the year via email and other media, and meets during the annual meeting.

Committees of AMU/AMS have been difficult to trace. Early committees had specific short-term charges. In 1936, a "Checklist Committee" was established to compile a checklist of molluscs of North America north of Mexico. Then in 1939, a Publication Committee was charged with creating a periodical helpful to beginners, which ultimately resulted in the booklet *How to Study and Collect Shells.* A Committee on Nomenclature was created in 1949 to communicate nomenclatural problems to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. A Legal Committee in 1971 was charged to consider the limits of AMU activities in influencing legislation regarding endangered species, and to consider the implications of dropping the non-profit status of the society.

Standing committees first appeared in the minutes sporadically (and I have little confidence that these are the first years of these units): Constitutional Revision (1952), Public Relations (1960), Finance (1960), Auditing (1964), Nominating (1964, although it surely must have existed earlier), Annual Meeting Site (1971, again probably earlier), History and Archives (1972), Membership (1972), Publications (1972), and Awards (1973). The Conservation Committee was created in 1969 and became very active politically through the 1970s and 1980s (reference duties of Legal Committee, above, in 1971), soliciting letters of support from the society in support of various actions, *e.g.,* the Gatun Lake Resolution, supporting the maintenance of the existing freshwater barrier in the Panama Canal in 1973. A Code of Ethics was approved by the committee in 1973, and a Policy on Biological Conservation in 1997. The Council of Systematic Malacologists first appeared in 1973, to consider inter-institutional problems not suitable for AMU consideration. CSM operated as an independent society associated with AMU until 1997, when it disbanded; it was concurrently replaced by the standing Systematics (sometimes Systematics and Collections) Committee. The Institute of Malacology (the body that publishes the journal *Malacologia*) has also often met at AMU/AMS (from 1983 to present) although it is an independent organization. Most of the standing committees exist in some form today, appointed by the President annually to conduct society business. The current roster is Publications, Student Awards, Conservation, Constitution and Bylaws, Membership, Systematics, Nominating, Endowment Review, Auditing and Budget, and Resolutions and Recognition.

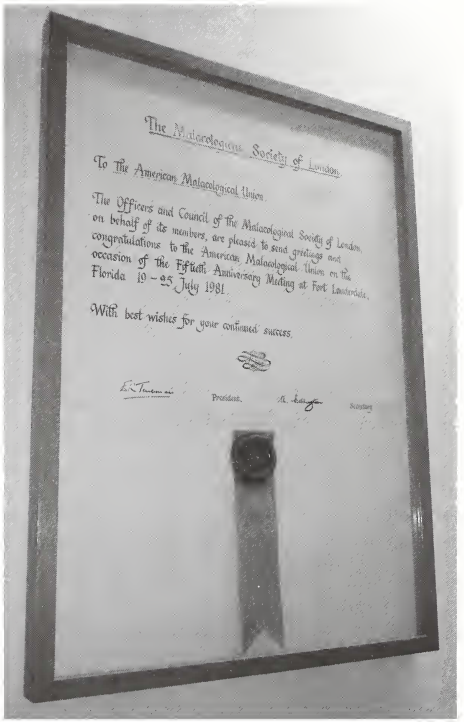
SOCIETAL IDENTITY

In 1960, after thirty years of wildly variable covers of the *Annual Reports*, a juvenile freshwater Spiny Riversnail, *Io fluvialis* Say, 1825, chosen as "a typically American shell" and drawn by Anthony D'Attilio (with assistance from Happy Robertson), first appeared on the cover of an *Annual Report.* It remained there until creation of the peer-reviewed *American Malacological Bulletin* in 1983. In 1964, *Io fluvialis,* as the "recognized symbol of AMU," was chosen as the logo of the annual meeting in New Orleans. *Io* has since served as the official logo of the society, and the logo of four additional meetings (Naples 1977, Ft. Lauderdale 1981, New Orleans

[11] In the days before email, telephone and more often written correspondence between the offices of Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary (by the 1980s, also Newsletter Editor), and Treasurer were required on an almost weekly basis. Most of this concerned payment of dues and changes to the membership list. For instance, the Treasurer received the dues payments, often with address changes, but the membership list was maintained by the Recording Secretary. The Corresponding Secretary often also received address changes. Today, this problem continues, but is more efficiently handled through electronic means.

1982, Charleston 2002) although most meetings since 1961 have born some sort of original meeting logo of their own. Interestingly, the first two meeting logos recognizable as such were fossil gastropods, *Ecphora quadricostata* (Say, 1824) (Washington, D.C., 1961) and *Vasum horridum* Heilprin, 1886 (St. Petersburg, Florida, 1962). Meeting logo shells have often reflected either the locale of the meeting [*e.g.,* Scotch Bonnet, *Phalium granulatum* (Born, 1778), state shell of North Carolina in 1966 at the University of North Carolina; *Anuaea mitchelli* (Dall, 1896) a prized regional beach find for Corpus Christi, Texas, in 1968] or the research interest of the President [*e.g.,* the pyramidellid snail *Fargoa bartschi* (Winkley, 1909) with a spermatophore, for President Robert Robertson in 1984; a stylized snail of the family Mathildidae for President Rüdiger Bieler in 1996]. Many have been original works of art [*e.g., Busycon carica* (Gmelin, 1791) by Anthony D'Attilio, 1965; *Cancellaria gladiator* R. E. Petit, 1976, by Sue Stephens, 1988]. These logos have graced program covers, T-shirts, coffee mugs, bottle openers, and reusable water bottles, and have become collectors' items in their own right for many loyal society members.

Charter Member Imogene Robertson began keeping AMU scrapbooks in 1931, continued in 1952 by Margaret Teskey until 1972. The "AMU Library," consisting of scrapbooks, *Annual Reports,* shell club publications, and "a small but increasing collection of memorabilia and pictures of shell collectors," had its own dedicated room at the Delaware Museum of Natural History in 1973, during R. Tucker Abbott's curatorship. By 1975, these records were called "archives" and saw regular donations (the 1976 *Annual Report* noted receipt of photographic slides of past meetings and Imogene Robertson's correspondence). In 1978, the archives were moved to the Department of Malacology, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, where they reside today. The wall of the ANSP Malacology Department displays the framed 50th Anniversary congratulatory scroll received from the Malacological Society of London by President Richard S. "Joe" Houbrick in 1981 (Fig. 6).


The Malacological Society of London

To The American Malacological Union

The Officers and Council of the Malacological Society of London, on behalf of its members, are pleased to send greetings and congratulations to the American Malacological Union on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary Meeting at Fort Lauderdale, Florida 19 – 25 July 1991.

With best wishes for your continued success.

President. Secretary

Figure 6. The archives of the American Malacological Society reside today at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. Part of this includes a congratulatory scroll presented to President Richard S. "Joe" Houbrick by the Malacological Society of London on the occasion of the society's 50th anniversary. The citation reads: "The Officers and Council of the Malacological Society of London, on behalf of its members, are pleased to send greetings and congratulations to the American Malacological Union on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary Meeting at Fort Lauderdale, Florida 19-25 July 1991. With best wishes for your continued success." It is signed by E. R. Trueman, President, and A. Bebbington, Secretary.

THE FUTURE OF AMS

Membership is down and declining, to the lowest totals since the 1930s. Most of the amateurs have left for COA, and many professionals (especially freshwater and cephalopod specialists) often choose another annual meeting (sometimes more specialized, often for wider or just different exposure) due to reduced travel budgets throughout academia. There are too many specialty journals for the relatively small science of malacology, and *American Malacological Bulletin* was reduced recently to a single annual issue for budgetary reasons, so is it really important enough to keep publishing? [***Ed. Comment:*** *The editors spend a tremendous amount of time on the* Bulletin, *and would appreciate feedback on whether their efforts are appreciated.*] Professors do not encourage their students to join AMS, and often they themselves do not attend. Does AMS really need to meet every year?

These are bleak statements, but ones that some of us hear at nearly every meeting. Today's Presidents must be

more and more creative in making meetings attractive, and in fundraising to make meetings self-sustaining without outrageous costs to attendees. Yet despite the grumblings and difficulties, AMS meetings are attracting more and more students. Recent meetings have been praised *because* of their small size—as better opportunities to meet people and engage in meaningful conversations without the hustle and bustle of a gigantic meeting venue. AMS enjoys the respect of national and international organizations and malacologists around the globe. Would the founders be pleased? Yes, I think so. True, we must continually strive to make membership and meeting attendance meaningful to today's malacologists; such is the task of all organizations. Yet our society survives, evolves with the times, and in at least most respects, is thriving. In the words of Paul Bartsch in 1931, "it is a good thing to have an organization of this kind." In the eyes of at least this Past President, it still is.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I have had some excellent resources available to assist me with this task. Most especially, this included the AMU scrapbooks (1931-1976) in the society archives at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, initially compiled by Imogene C. Robertson, the society's first Financial and Recording Secretary (1931-1951), later continued by her successor Margaret Teskey (1952-1972). I am indebted to Paul Callomon, "keeper" of the archives at ANSP for allowing me to access this resource. I also had three previous historical versions to assist: the brief summary history on the AMS website (http://www.malacological.org), two articles from the *Bulletin of the American Malacological Union for 1981* (on AMS's 50th anniversary; Keen 1981, Teskey 1981), and an unpublished history of the society by Harold Murray (1991). Scott Martin (of Columbus, Ohio) provided additional insight on and information about Norman Lermond, which he presented at the 2009 AMS meeting. Finally, I have been a member of AMS since 1977 (and thus now qualify as a "long-term member"), and have served as Corresponding Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Managing Editor of the *AMB*, and the three Presidential officers; this experience and my indelible habit of accumulating and filing away my meeting notes served me very well in this enjoyable endeavor. Alan Kabat and Gene Coan provided many interesting addenda that were unknown and unrecorded elsewhere. Thanks also to Past Presidents Rüdiger Bieler, Gene Coan, Alan Kohn, Bill Lyons, Jim McLean, Diarmaid Ó Foighil, Bob Prezant, and Robert Robertson for editing and providing details about their annual meetings and other items under their charge.

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Submitted: 18 January 2010; **accepted:** 22 January 2010; **final revisions received:** 26 January 2010

Appendix 1. American Malacological Union/Society annual meeting years, venues, and presidents.

Year	Meeting venue	President
1931	Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Henry A. Pilsbry, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia
1932	United States National Museum, Washington, D.C.	Henry A. Pilsbry, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia
1933	Biological Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts	Paul Bartsch, United States National Museum
1934	Geological Building, Stanford University, Stanford, California	Junius Henderson, University of Colorado Museum
1935	Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York	William J. Clench, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University
1936	Detroit Hotel, St. Petersburg, Florida	Calvin Goodrich, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan
1937	Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan	Joshua L. Baily Jr., San Diego Museum of Natural History
1938	Escuela de Ciencias, Universidad de la Habana, Havana, Cuba	Carlos de la Torre, Universidad de la Habana
1939	Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto, Canada	Maxwell Smith, Florida
1940	Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	H. Burrington Baker, University of Pennsylvania
1941	Knox Academy of Arts and Sciences, Thomaston, Maine, and Crescent Beach Inn, Owl's Head, Rockland, Maine	Harald A. Rehder, United States National Museum
1942	[no meeting, World War II]	Frank Collins Baker, Museum of Natural History, University of Illinois at Urbana
1943	[no meeting, World War II]	Louise M. Perry, Asheville, North Carolina
1944	[no meeting, World War II]	Henry van der Schalie, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan
1945	[no meeting, World War II]	Henry van der Schalie, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan
1946	United States National Museum, Washington, D.C.	Henry van der Schalie, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan
1947	Asilomar Hotel and Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, California	Henry van der Schalie, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan
1948	Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	A. Myra Keen, Stanford University
1949	University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida	Elmer G. Berry, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan
1950	Chicago Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois	Fritz Haas, Chicago Museum of Natural History
1951	Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York	Joseph P. E. Morrison, United States National Museum
1952	Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts	Jeanne S. Schwengel, Scarsdale, New York
1953	Memorial Union Building, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas	A. Byron Leonard, University of Kansas
1954	Nesmith Hall, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire	Joseph C. Bequaert, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University
1955	Wagner College, Grymes Hill, Staten Island, New York	Morris K. "Karl" Jacobson, American Museum of Natural History
1956	Hotel Lafayette, San Diego, California (Joint meeting with AMU Pacific Division)	Allyn G. Smith, California Academy of Sciences
1957	Peabody Museum, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut	Ruth D. Turner, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University
1958	South Quadrangle, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan	Aurèle La Rocque, Ohio State University
1959	Roberts Hall, Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania, and Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	R. Tucker Abbott, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia
1960	Redpath Museum, McGill University, Montreal, Canada	Katherine Van Winkle Palmer, Paleontological Research Institution
1961	Natural History Museum, United States National Museum, Washington, D.C.	Thomas E. Pulley, Museum of Natural History, Houston
1962	Florida Presbyterian College, St. Petersburg, Florida	William K. Emerson, American Museum of Natural History

Appendix 1. (Continued)

Year	Meeting venue	President
1963	Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York	Albert R. Mead, University of Arizona
1964	Sheraton-Charles Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana	John Q. Burch, Los Angeles, California
1965	Wagner College, Staten Island, New York	Juan J. Parodiz, Carnegie Museum
1966	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina	Ralph W. Dexter, Kent State University
1967	Carleton University and National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, Canada	Leo G. Hertlein, California Academy of Sciences
1968	Robert Driscoll Motor Hotel, Corpus Christi, Texas	Arthur H. Clarke Jr., National Museum of Canada
1969	Science Hall, Marinette County Campus, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Marinette, Wisconsin	Joseph Rosewater, United States National Museum
1970	Key Wester Motor Inn and Villas, Key West, Florida	Alan G. Solem, Field Museum of Natural History
1971	Atlantis Convention Center, Cocoa Beach, Florida	David H. Stansbery, Museum of Zoology, Ohio State University
1972	Galvez Hotel, Galveston, Texas	Arthur S. Merrill, National Marine Fisheries Service, Oxford, Maryland
1973	Clayton Convention Center, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware, and Delaware Museum of Natural History, Greenville, Delaware	Dolores S. "Dee" Dundee, Louisiana State University
1974	Museum of Science, Springfield, Massachusetts	Harold D. Murray, Trinity University, Texas
1975	San Diego State University, San Diego, California (Joint meeting with the Western Society of Malacologists)	Donald R. Moore, Institute of Marine Sciences, Miami
1976	Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio	Dorothea S. Franzen, Illinois Wesleyan University
1977	Beach Club Hotel, Naples, Florida	George M. Davis, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia
1978	University of North Carolina, Wilmington, North Carolina	Carol B. Stein, Ohio State University
1979	La Quinta Royale Motor Inn, Corpus Christi, Texas (Joint meeting with the Western Society of Malacologists)	William E. Old, Jr., American Museum of Natural History
1980	Executive Inn East, Louisville, Kentucky	Clyde F. E. Roper, National Museum of Natural History
1981	Galt Ocean Mile Hotel, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida	Richard S. "Joe" Houbrick, National Museum of Natural History
1982	Fountain Bay Club Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana	Louise Russert Kraemer, University of Arkansas
1983	McCarthy Hall, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington (Joint meeting with the Western Society of Malacologists)	Alan J. Kohn, University of Washington
1984	Holiday Inn – Waterside, Norfolk, Virginia	Robert Robertson, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia
1985	Chafee Hall, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island	Melbourne R. Carriker, University of Delaware
1986	Monterey Sheraton, Monterey, California (Joint meeting with the Western Society of Malacologists)	James Nybakken, Moss Landing Marine Laboratory
1987	Marriott's Casa Marina Resort, Key West, Florida	William G. Lyons, Florida Department of Natural Resources
1988	Radisson Francis Marion Hotel, Charleston, South Carolina	Richard E. Petit, Charleston, South Carolina
1989	Davidson Conference Center, University of Southern California, and Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, California (Joint meeting with the Western Society of Malacologists)	James H. McLean, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
1990	Swope Conference Center, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts	Roger T. Hanlon, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston
1991	Clark Kerr Campus, University of California, Berkeley, California (Joint meeting with the Western Society of Malacologists)	Carole S. Hickman, University of California at Berkeley
1992	Hyatt Sarasota, Sarasota, Florida	Robert C. Bullock, University of Rhode Island
1993	*Nordic Empress* Cruise, Miami, Florida, to the Bahamas	Fred G. Thompson, Florida Museum of Natural History
1994	Hyatt Regency Downtown, Houston, Texas	Constance E. Boone, Houston Museum of Natural Science
1995	University of Hawai'i, Hilo, Hawaii	E. Alison Kay, University of Hawai'i at Hilo
1996	Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois	Rüdiger Bieler, Field Museum of Natural History

Appendix 1. (Continued)

Year	Meeting venue	President
1997	Radisson Hotel, Santa Barbara, California (Joint meeting with the Western Society of Malacologists)	Eugene V. Coan, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
1998	S. Dillon Ripley Conference Center, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. (at World Congress of Malacology)	Robert Hershler, National Museum of Natural History
1999	Sheraton Hotel Station Square, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	Robert S. Prezant, Queen's College, New York
2000	Seven Hills Conference Center, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California (Joint meeting with the Western Society of Malacologists)	Terrence M. Gosliner, California Academy of Sciences
2001	Institute of Zoology, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria (at World Congress of Malacology)	Janice Voltzow, University of Scranton
2002	Lightsey Conference Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina	Robert T. Dillon, Jr., College of Charleston
2003	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan	Diarmaid M. Ó Foighil, University of Michigan
2004	Sundial Beach Resort, Sanibel Island, Florida	José H. Leal, Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum, Sanibel Island
2005	Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, California (Joint meeting with the Western Society of Malacologists)	Dianna K. Padilla, State University of New York at Stony Brook
2006	University of Washington, Seattle, Washington (Joint meeting with the Western Society of Malacologists)	Roland C. Anderson, Seattle Aquarium
2007	Groenenborger Campus, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium (at World Congress of Malacology)	Paula M. Mikkelsen, Paleontological Research Institution
2008	Student Center, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois	Frank "Andy" Anderson, Southern Illinois University
2009	Cornell University, Ithaca, New York	Warren D. Allmon, Paleontological Research Institution

Appendix 2. American Malacological Union Pacific Division annual meeting years, venues, and chairmen (then applied to both men and women).

Year	Meeting venue	Chairman
1948	Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California	Ruth E. Coats, Tillamook, Oregon
1949	Municipal Auditorium, Long Beach, California	[not available]
1950	The Barbara Hotel, Santa Barbara, California	John Q. Burch, Los Angeles, California
1951	Mills College, Oakland, California	Leo G. Hertlein, California Academy of Sciences
1952	Founders Hall, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California	Wendell O. Gregg, Los Angeles, California
1953	Asilomar Hotel and Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, California	Allyn G. Smith, California Academy of Sciences
1954	Founders Hall, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California	Elsie M. Chace, Lomita, California
1955	Department of Geology, Stanford University, Stanford, California	Ralph O. Fox, California Academy of Sciences
1956	Hotel Lafayette, San Diego, California (Joint meeting with AMU)	Edward P. Baker, Downey, California
1957	Mar Monte Hotel, Santa Barbara, California	Edward P. Baker, Downey, California
1958	Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley, California	Albert R. Mead, University of Arizona
1959	University of Redlands, Redlands, California	John E. Fitch, California State Fisheries Laboratory
1960	Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, California	Rudolf Stohler, University of California at Berkeley

Appendix 2. (Continued)

Year	Meeting venue	Chairman
1961	University of California at Santa Barbara, Goleta, California	Howard R. Hill, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (deceased during year), succeeded by Robert W. Talmadge, California Academy of Sciences
1962	Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, California	Robert W. Talmadge, California Academy of Sciences
1963	University of California at Santa Barbara, Goleta, California	Crawford N. Cate, Los Angeles, California
1964	Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, California	A. Myra Keen, Stanford University
1965	University Lodge, Point Loma Campus, California Western University, San Diego, California	Edwin C. Allison, La Jolla, California
1966	Department of Zoology, University of Washington and Pacific Science Center, Seattle, Washington	Alan J. Kohn, University of Washington
1967	Merrill Hall, Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, California	Gale G. Sphon, Jr., Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
1968	Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, California	Fay Wolfson, La Jolla, California
1969	Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, California (Joint meeting with Western Society of Malacologists)	G. Bruce Campbell, Lynwood, California

Appendix 3. Honorary appointments of the American Malacological Union/Society.

Honorary Members (1932-1952):
- Thomas Barbour, 1933-1946
- Charles Torrey Simpson, 1932
- Victor Sterki, 1932-1933
- Bryant Walker, 1932-1936

Honorary Life Members (1952-present):
- R. Tucker Abbott, 1981-1995
- Ralph Arnold, 1959-1960
- H. Burrington Baker, 1958-1971
- Paul Bartsch, 1953-1958, thereafter Honorary Life President
- Joseph C. Bequaert, 1958-1982
- S. Stillman Berry, 1953-1960, thereafter Honorary Life President
- Melbourne R. Carriker, 1997-2007
- Emery P. Chace, 1973-1980
- William J. Clench, 1961-1984
- Eugene V. Coan, 2008-present
- William K. Emerson, 1987-present
- Dorothea S. Franzen, 2006-2008
- Julia Gardner, 1959-1960
- Fritz Haas, 1960-1969
- Leo G. Hertlein, 1970-1972
- Morris K. "Karl" Jacobson, 1980
- A. Myra Keen, 1968-1985
- Alan J. Kohn, 2004-2008, thereafter Honorary Life President
- James H. McLean, 2004-present
- Joseph P. E. Morrison, 1978-1983
- Harold D. Murray, 1999-present

Katherine Van Winkle Palmer, 1961-1982
Richard E. Petit, 1997-present
Henry A. Pilsbry, 1953-1957
Harald A. Rehder, 1978-1985, thereafter Honorary Life President
Imogene C. Robertson, 1952-1953
Robert Robertson, 1997-present
Margaret C. Teskey, 1967-1996
Ruth D. Turner, 1981-1997, thereafter Honorary Life President
Henry van der Schalie, 1982-1986
J. Z. Young, 1990-1997

Honorary Life Members (Pacific Division):
Andrew Sorenson, 1956-1962

Honorary Presidents (1932-1958):
Ida S. Oldroyd, 1934-1940
Henry A. Pilsbry, 1937-1957
Imogene C. Robertson, 1940-1953

Honorary Life Presidents (1959-present, reserved for only one person at any one time):
Paul Bartsch, 1959
S. Stillman Berry, 1960-1984
Harald A. Rehder, 1985-1996
Ruth D. Turner, 1997-2000
Alan J. Kohn, 2008-present